

Child and Adolescent Health Section

Healthy Child Care Washington

Healthy Child Care Washington (HCCW) promotes healthy development in child care and early learning programs through a statewide system that combines the efforts of child care providers, parents, educators, policymakers, medical providers, social agencies, and health professionals.

Kids Matter

‘Kids Matter’ is a plan for building the early childhood system in Washington State. The early childhood system includes child care, medical homes, and early education programs.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

The Teen Pregnancy Prevention program supports community-based projects and a statewide abstinence-based public awareness program.

Healthy Youth Survey

The *Healthy Youth Survey* is conducted once every two years in Washington state public schools in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. The survey collects information about youth behaviors and health issues. Data are used by state agencies and community organizations to plan programs, monitor trends, and identify emerging adolescent health issues.

Washington State Partnership for Youth

The Washington State Partnership for Youth is developing a statewide plan to improve adolescent health and youth development.

Bright Futures Health Guidelines

CAH encourages health, social service, and education providers to use the Bright Futures health promotion materials and principles.

The Child and Adolescent Health (CAH) Section within the Office of Maternal and Child Health (OMCH) works to promote and protect the physical health, mental health, and overall development of individuals age 1-21 years.

Activities

- Work with local public health agencies to provide advice and training on health, safety, and child development to child care centers serving infants and toddlers.
- Support state and community-based teen pregnancy prevention programs such as abstinence-based media campaigns, mentoring projects, and family planning services.
- Develop and distribute health-related data and information.
- Promote the use of ‘Bright Futures’ health guidelines and materials for providers and families. These include information about physical, oral, and mental health for children, adolescents, and their families.
- Coordinate with state and local partners to implement the *Kids Matter* plan.
- Promote mental health in child and adolescent health planning at the state and local level.

Outcomes and Benefits

- Providers and parents receive age-specific health and development information, which assists them in making informed decisions about the safety, health care, and well-being of children and adolescents.
- Children and adolescents with health, nutrition, and behavioral problems are identified early and referred to the appropriate health services.
- Communities are better able to meet the health needs of children and adolescents.

Mental Health

CAH works with other state and local agencies to raise awareness of public health's role in promoting mental health, preventing mental illness, creating opportunities for early intervention, and identifying and treating mental health challenges and mental illness in children, adolescents, and their families.

2005—07 Funding & Staffing

Funding for CAH activities comes from a variety of sources including, the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (Title V), other federal funds, foundations, and the State General Fund.

CAH staff represent the fields of public health administration, public health, nursing, social work, health education, and office administration.

For more information about the Child and Adolescent Health Section, please contact:

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Outcomes and Benefits continued

- The number of unintended teen pregnancies is reduced.
- Youth receive information for making informed choices about their behavior.
- Parents, care givers, and policymakers recognize that healthy, well developed children and adolescents are better prepared for early learning programs, school, and life long success.
- Local health agencies are better equipped and prepared to perform public health functions such as assessments and policy development related to child and adolescent health.

Trends and Emerging Issues

- Improving access to primary health care for low-income children and adolescents is critical.
- Welfare reform policies have increased the demand for child care services. Technical assistance and monitoring are important to ensure the health and safety of children in child care settings.
- Influences during a child's early years are important to future learning, school readiness, and life long success.
- Obesity and lack of physical activity are growing problems for children and adolescents.
- Standard measures for child and adolescent health must be used to evaluate effectiveness.
- Public-private partnerships benefit activities of mutual interest.
- Web-based data collection systems increase the need for information technology resources.